Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (new) A process for the preparation of an insertion compound of an alkali metal in which the following successive stages are carried out:

a) an organic complex of a transition metal or of a mixture of transition metals M in an oxidation state of greater than 2 is brought into contact with an alkali metal A in the ionic form and with an entity of formula $H_b(XO_4)$, where X is chosen from Si, S, Al, P, Ge, As or Mo and b has a value from 0 to 5, in a liquid medium in a closed chamber; the chamber is brought to a temperature T which makes possible the decomposition of the organic complex in the the said liquid medium;

b) the temperature and the pressure in the chamber are brought back to ambient temperature and atmospheric pressure and the insertion compound of an alkali metal of formula $AMXO_4$, in which M is in the +2 oxidation state, is recovered.

Claim 30. (new) The process according to Claim 29, in which the metal M is in an oxidation state of 3 to 5, preferably in an oxidation state equal to 3.

Claim 31. (new) The process according to Claim 29, in which M is chosen from transition metals, such as Mn, Fe, Ni, Co and their mixtures.

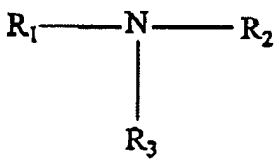
Claim 32. (new) The process according to Claim 29, in which the alkali metal A is chosen from Li and Na.

Claim 33. (new) The process according to Claim 29, in which the alkali metal A in the ionic form is in the form of an alkali metal salt $A_aH_b(XO_4)$ where a has a value from 1 to 5.

Claim 34. (new) The process according to Claim 29, in which X is P.

Claim 35. (new) The process according to Claim 32, in which the alkali metal salt is Li_2HPO_4.

Claim 36. (new) The process according to Claim 29, in which the organic complex comprises the metal M bonded to an organic ligand chosen from the compounds of formula:



in which at least one from R_1, R_2 and R_3 comprises at least one oxygen atom.

Claim 37. (new) The process according to Claim 36, in which, in the organic ligand, R_1, R_2 and R_3 are chosen independently from carboxy(1-4C) alkyl radicals, such as carboxymethyl and carboxyethyl.

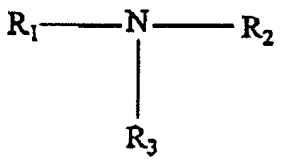
Claim 38. (new) The process according to Claim 37, in which the organic ligand is nitrilotriacetic acid $N(CH_2CO_2H)_3$ or ethylenedioxyethylenedinitriletetraacetic acid (EGTA).

Claim 39. (new) The process according to Claim 29, in which the liquid medium, in stage a), is chosen from water; organic solvents, such as liquid alkanes, for example dodecane, or tributyl phosphate (TBP); and their mixtures.

Claim 40. (new) The process according to Claim 29, in which, on conclusion of stage b), the compound is washed and then dried, optionally under vacuum.

Claim 41. (new) The process according to Claim 29, in which the organic complex is prepared in a stage prior to stage a) by bringing a salt of the metal M, in the oxidation state greater than 2, into contact with an organic compound in a liquid medium.

Claim 42. (new) The process according to Claim 41, in which the organic compound is chosen from the compounds of formula:



in which at least one from R_1, R_2 and R_3 comprises at least one oxygen atom.

Claim 43 (new) The process according to Claim 42, in which, in the organic compound, R_1, R_2 and R_3 are chosen independently from carboxy(1-4C)alkyl radicals, such as carboxymethyl and carboxyethyl.

Claim 44. (new) The process according to Claim 43, in which the organic compound is nitrilotriacetic acid $N(CH_2CO_2H)_3$ or ethylenedioxyethylenedinitriletetraacetic acid.

Claim 45. (new) The process according to Claim 41, in which the salt of the metal M is chosen from nitrates, sulphates, chlorides, acetates, citrates or carboxylates of the metal M.

Claim 46. (new) The process according to Claim 41, in which the liquid medium is chosen from water; organic solvents, such as liquid alkanes, for example dodecane, or tributyl phosphate (TBP); and their mixtures.

Claim 47. (new) An insertion compound of an alkali metal of formula $AM(XO_4)$ where A is chosen from alkali metals, X is chosen from Si, S, Al, P, Ge, As and Mo, and M is in the +2 oxidation state, characterized in that it exhibits a content of metal M as at oxidation state of greater than 2, for example of metal M(III), of less than 5% by weight, preferably of less than 1% by weight.

Claim 48. (new) The compound according to Claim 47, which is present in the form of particles or grains.

Claim 49. (new) The compound according to Claim 48, in which the particles have the shape of cylinders, cubes or polyhedra.

Claim 50. (new) The compound according to Claims 48, in which the particles exhibit a fully controlled, homogeneous, morphology.

Claim 51. (new) The compound according to Claims 48, in which the deviation from the mean value of the size of the particles is less than 20%, preferably less than 10%, more preferably less than 1%.

Claim 52. (new) An electrode active material comprising one or more compounds

according to Claim 47 or prepared by the process according to Claim 29, optionally in combination with one or more other active compounds, such as $LiCoO_2$, $LiNiO_2$, manganese oxides, in particular with the spinel structure $Li_{1+x}Mn_{2-x}O_4$ (with $0 \leq x \leq 0.33$), for example $LiMn_2O_4$, compounds of the family isotypic with olivine, such as $Li_{1-x}FePO_4$, for example $LiFePO_4$, compounds with the Nasicon structure and the insertion materials of lithium of the orthosilicate type.

Claim 53. (new) A positive electrode comprising the active material according to Claim 52.

Claim 54. (new) A battery comprising the electrode according to Claim 53.

Claim 55. (new) The battery according to Claim 54, comprising a negative electrode based on $Li_4Ti_5O_{12}$.

Claim 56. (new) An electrochromic device comprising the compound according to Claim 47 or prepared by the process according to Claim 29.